

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5-8, 11, 12, 25, 26 and 31 have been rejected.

Claims 13-24 and 38-54 have been allowed.

Appreciation is expressed for the indicated allowability of claims 2-4, 9, 10, 27-29, 32-37 and 55.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 5-8, 11, 12, 25, 26 and 31 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5-9, 12, 13, 39 and 42 of U. S. Patent No. 7,003,715. An appropriate Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this response. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5-8, 11, 12, 25, 26 and 31 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5092.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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